



## Senator Feinstein Seeks To Curb Emissions From Ocean Ships March 23, 2004

*Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) has sent a letter to Michael Leavitt, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, requesting that the agency impose stronger standards to regulate air pollution emissions from both domestic and foreign-flagged ocean-going ships to help states comply with national air quality standards. The text of the letter follows:*

“I am writing to ask for your help to reduce air pollution emissions from ocean-going ships. Without reductions from this sector, many areas of California and other coastal States will be unable to achieve compliance with national air quality standards, threatening public health and transportation funds. We need a national regulation to reduce these emissions soon.

Large ships are an important source of pollution in California:

- According to the California Air Resources Board, large vessels already account for 3% of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions and 10% of diesel particulate matter emissions statewide. Local coastal and port communities are even more severely affected.
- Because of predicted increases in international trade and shipping traffic, the Air Resources Board expects ships to account for 9% of NO<sub>x</sub> and 26% of diesel particulate emissions statewide by 2020.

Given these trends, it is essential that we begin to reduce these emissions as soon as possible. I applaud international efforts to reduce emissions through the MARPOL treaty [International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships] and encourage efforts to strengthen the international standards. However, I fear that those reductions will come too slowly and too late for California. Likewise, I appreciate the EPA’s efforts to apply the MARPOL standards to domestic ships. However, because foreign-flagged vessels contribute so much of the pollution, stronger standards – either national or international – affecting foreign and domestic ships are necessary.

I am told that the EPA is unsure whether the Clean Air Act allows the Agency to regulate emissions from foreign-flagged ships. I would appreciate clarification on this point. If necessary, I will introduce legislation clarifying your authority to regulate foreign ships. I am also willing to introduce legislation creating a national standard affecting all ships if necessary to reduce these emissions. I would like to work with you to develop those proposals.”

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